

The other thing that they are saying is that the Republican plan cuts Medicare. The Republican plan goes from \$190 to \$304 billion. I wish that my Democrat friends would join me in increasing Medicare from \$5,000 to \$7,000 per person. It would be great if they would like to join us in increasing and protecting and preserving Medicare. I ask them to . . . join us in true reform.

Mr. VOLKMER. Mr. Speaker, I demand that the gentleman's words be taken down.

□ 1030

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. HAYWORTH]. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Is the gentleman from Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON] required to be seated during this time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct. The gentleman from Georgia will be seated.

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw any reference from my speech to lying.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The demand was withdrawn.

SAY "NO" TO PAYOFFS FOR LAYOFFS

(Mr. SANDERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, in a time when this Congress is proposing huge cuts in Medicare, and Medicaid, and education, environmental protection, veterans programs, it is absolutely insane that we continue to provide \$125 billion a year in corporate welfare, tax breaks and subsidies which go to some of the largest, the most profitable corporations in America, and that is why I am delighted that last month legislation which I offered with the gentleman from New Jersey [Mr. SMITH] passed this body and would take a major bite out of one of the most outrageous examples of corporate welfare, and that is the billions of dollars in Pentagon subsidies which taxpayers are providing to huge defense contractors, subsidies which, if my colleagues can believe it, are providing incentives to merge their companies and in the process lay off tens of thousands of American workers.

Yes, that is what we are doing: Taxpayer subsidies are going for payoffs for layoffs, to lay off tens of thousands of American workers.

Mr. Speaker, while this important legislation passed the House unfortunately it did not pass the Senate, and it will be going to conference commit-

tee. My hope is that this body will urge our conferees to say no to payoffs, for layoffs.

REPUBLICANS WANT COMMON-SENSE REFORM OF THE WELFARE SYSTEM

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, most people probably think that welfare is temporary, that people are on it for a few months and then move on to a job. This is not the case. The average stay on welfare is 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, that is plainly unacceptable. When we place people on welfare for year after year after year, you are not helping them you are hurting them. If a person is healthy and is able to work, they should work, period. It is reprehensible that our Government has devised a welfare system that pays people not to work.

Republicans have made it very clear that we want serious, commonsense reform of the welfare system. We want to emphasize work, we want to restore power to the States, and we want to encourage personal responsibility. President Bill Clinton says he wants the very same things.

I hope the President joins us in reforming welfare so that it does not become a way of life and people are not trapped on it for 13 years.

WHICH STATEMENT OF THE SPEAKER'S ARE WE TO BELIEVE?

(Mr. KLINK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker, let me just refer again, since we have had some dispute as to who is being truthful and who is misrepresenting the truth, the exact quote from Speaker GINGRICH, who said:

We don't get rid of it in round one because we don't think that's politically smart and we don't think that's the right way to go through a transition period, but we believe it's going to wither on the vine because we think people are voluntarily going to leave it.

My colleagues on the Republican side would now say that he was referring to the Health Care Finance Administration. Who is going to voluntarily leave the Health Care Finance Administration except maybe a handful of disgruntled bureaucratic employees who do not want to work there any more?

When they talk about leaving it, the it is Medicare. We are talking about fee-for-service Medicare, indeed.

The Speaker himself, quoted in the Atlanta Journal and Constitution 3 days after this quote was in the Washington Post, said that he was in fact referring to fee-for-service Medicare which he believed seniors would leave if they will have managed care.

We have to wonder which statement of the Speaker's we are to believe.

CONGRESS IS NOT GOING TO CUT MEDICARE NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS

(Mr. CALLAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, to those thousands of American senior citizens around the country that might be watching this today, I want to tell them that we are having a lot of fun seemingly at their expense. We have some people who are more interested in the Presidential race or in their own congressional races. We have some people that are using these props and some people even making up things. But to alleviate any fears that may he had in the future about this Congress cutting Medicare, I am a member of the Committee on Appropriations, and I have spoken to Democrats and Republicans on the committee, and I will guarantee everyone that we are not going to cut Medicare under any circumstance.

So listen to the debate, listen to what they have to say, keep in mind what they are saying. But if Americans want to go visit their grandchildren today, then they should go visit their grandchildren because SONNY CALLAHAN can say unequivocally that this Congress, the next Congress, or the following Congress is not going to cut Medicare no matter what anybody says.

SUPPORT INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for the Legal Services Corp. The funding cuts contained in the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill that we are considering today will force the Legal Services Corp. to abandon many of the critical legal services that it provides to poor women, particularly victims of domestic violence.

In 1995, legal services programs handled over 59,000 cases in which clients sought legal protection from abusive spouses and over 9,300 cases involving neglected, abused, and dependent juveniles. In fact, family law—which includes domestic violence cases—makes up one-third of the 1.7 million cases handled by legal services programs each year.

Let me tell my colleagues the story of one woman who received help from a legal services program. To escape an abusive husband, this woman took her three children and fled to Texas. The husband followed her, beat her up, and held a gun to her head and threatened to kill her.